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Drop of the hard stuff

FORGET Scotch whisky, the next destination for lovers of a 'wee dram' is the Cotswolds countryside near Banbury – with the launch of the area's first single malt. Meet the distiller bringing the 'hard stuff' to Banburyshire.

SEE PAGE 6

Mum's grief as inquest hears builder's car veered into path of lorry

CRASH CAUSE STILL MYSTERY

A GRIEVING mother will never know why her son's car veered into the path of a tipper lorry a week before Christmas killing him instantly.

Callum Jeycock, of Grange Road, Banbury, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident the morning after spending the evening at a cinema with his new girlfriend.

The 20-year-old builder had been driving along the A4260 from Adderbury towards Deddington at about 7.30am on December 18 last year when his Ford Fiesta collided head-on with the HGV travelling in the opposite direction.

At an inquest yesterday, the Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter said there was no explanation for the car drifting onto the wrong side of the road.

Mr Jeycock's mother, named only as Fiona, wept as she listened to the evidence.

Mr Salter said the young man had spent the evening before the crash watching the latest *Star Wars* adventure with his girlfriend of two months, Milena Tomandlova. Mr Jeycock left Miss Tomandlova's house in Banbury at 6.40am the next day.

The coroner said: "Mr Nadir Niazi, a taxi driver, was driving behind Mr Jeycock. He had left the mosque in Park

Georgina Campbell
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Road, Banbury, at 7.12am and joined the line of traffic at Sainsbury's and remained behind Mr Jeycock until the collision.

"Mr Niazi said he saw Mr Jeycock's car drift to the wrong side of the road. "He was about to brake but the car was engulfed in black smoke and debris."

Reading out Mr Niazi's statement, Mr Salter said the Ford Fiesta collided with a Scania P-SRS Class heavy goods vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

As the vehicles collided head-on, the HGV driven by Kevin Ryan veered off the carriageway into the grass verge and between two trees.

Mr Ryan said in his statement: "I was near Adderbury when the collision happened. I was driving normally. I saw headlights come out from oncoming traffic and onto my side of the road."

"It approached so quickly I thought the car had come out of the ground."

"I do not think I had chance to take my foot off the accelerator. There was nothing I could have done to avoid the collision."

A toxicology report by Prof Ian Roberts, a consultant pathologist at the

John Radcliffe Hospital, said there were no toxins in Mr Jeycock's body and he died of "multiple injuries". He said death would have been instant.

Mr Salter said the court could only speculate as to why Mr Jeycock had drifted into the opposite lane of traffic.

He said: "The more difficult question is why Callum's vehicle went on the other side of the road. I think we have reached a point where it is speculation – we just do not know."

"One thing that seems to be clear in terms of Mr Ryan is that there is absolutely nothing he could have done to avoid the collision."

Mr Salter concluded that Mr Jeycock died as a result of a road traffic collision.

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Planning decision for new homes is delayed

A DECISION on up to 280 new homes in Bodicote has been delayed.

Cherwell District Council's planning committee was due to consider the application on Thursday.

The plans, submitted by Gladman Developments, included up to 280 new homes next to White Post Road, a new children's play area, car park and more open areas.

The decision has been deferred so councillors can also consider another application for the same site.

Gallagher Estates has submitted plans to build 1,000

homes on land next to Salt Way, which will also include a "local centre" that could have restaurants, pubs, a primary school, car park and new sports facilities.

The plans would also include a spine road across the site, beginning at the north entrance to the village, cutting across White Post Road and out towards Bloxham Road.

The land for both applications was included in the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1, released last year.

The two applications are expected to be considered at the next meeting on June 9.

Author inspires class

CHILDREN'S author Elen Caldecott joined pupils at Bloxham School on Saturday for an interactive creative writing workshop.

Mrs Caldecott, from Bristol, taught the children how to develop initial ideas for a story including elements of characterisation, point of view and pace.

She used examples from her own novels *The Marsh Road Mysteries* and each child left with their own piece of creative work.

The workshop created a real buzz among pupils.

Special flats for adults suffering brain injuries

A NEW set of flats to house adults with brain injuries is to be built in Banbury.

The five one-bedroom flats, north of Hanwell Fields, will offer sufferers greater independence and enhance their quality of life.

The application was agreed by Cherwell District Council's planning committee last Thursday.

The council's lead member for planning, Colin Clarke, said: "There is a clear need in the district for accommodation tailored to the particular needs of adults suffering from brain injuries.

"The units have been designed to prioritise the residents' privacy and welfare, but the siting of the development also means they will be part of a wider community, enjoying good transport links to local amenities."

As part of the plan there will also be an extra building for staff accommodation.

The site on which the flats will be built has been earmarked by Cherwell District Council for 544 homes to be built in their Local Plan, published in July last year.

Woman in sixties was sexually assaulted on bus

A WOMAN in her sixties was sexually assaulted on a Banbury bus last week.

The incident happened on Tuesday, May 17, between 11.40am and noon on the B5 Stagecoach while it was travelling through Lower Cherwell Street and Bridge Street.

A man moved to sit next to the victim and pressed himself against her. When the bus arrived in the town centre, she attempted to leave the vehicle and was touched inappropriately by the offender.

The man is described as Asian and in his mid to late

sixties with grey swept-back hair. He had no facial hair and light brown eyes.

He was slim, about 5ft 6in tall and was wearing a cream coloured long-sleeved jumper with a roll-neck and brown trousers.

He was carrying a black zip-up bag and was wearing gold

rings and a plaited bracelet.

Investigating officer PC Lucy McDonagh, based at Banbury police station, said: "We are appealing for witnesses or anyone who might be able to identify the suspect. The victim has been left traumatised and shocked."

Call police on 101.

Calls for 'traffic cushions' near development



Mark Cherry has called for more safety measures to be built in Bankside

A LABOUR councillor has called for more road calming measures to be put in following a decision to remove four chicanes from the road near the new Longford Park development in Bodicote.

The county council decided to take away the chicanes from Bankside to allow increased traffic due to the 600 new homes being built on the land

in the village, south of Banbury.

But Banbury councillor Mark Cherry said road cushions would be a good idea to provide better traffic flow through the village.

He said: "A new roundabout is being constructed at the Oxford Road flyover to provide access to Bankside for the 600 new homes in Longford Park.

"The chicanes have to go and of all the traffic calming options available I have suggested road cushions, which allow large vehicles and emergency vehicles free movement but slow down car users."

The Appleby Close resident added the cushions would be paid for using Section 106 funding from Longford Park,

which is required by developers to provide a benefit to the community.

Sarah Allen, of Badger Way, said: "At the moment traffic backs up at the chicanes especially at around 3.30pm for the school run."

"Road cushions are good because motorists don't want to damage their cars and will slow down."

Service will address mental health issues

Launch of new centre in the area will offer advice and support in wellbeing hub

Kieran Davey
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A NEW centre helping people address mental health issues will be officially opened in Banbury next week.

Oxfordshire Mind has chosen to start the new service in Britannia Road to give advice and support to those living in the area.

The charity's interim chief executive David Agnew said: "The opening of the Banbury Wellbeing Hub is another significant step towards our vision to address mental health issues in all areas



David Agnew from Oxfordshire Mind

of the county and make sure anyone with a mental health issue gets support and respect.

"We are pleased to have a new presence in Banbury and look forward to working within the local community."

"At Oxfordshire Mind we work hard

to ensure that anyone experiencing a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support and the opening of this new wellbeing hub is an important part of increasing access to our services."

The charity will be holding a launch day on Wednesday, June 1 to show members of the public the new services.

These include peer support groups, educational and coping skills courses and information and options sessions.

Mr Agnew added: "The launch event promises to be a really fun day with live music, information stands, taster sessions of some activities like yoga, and a visit from the town mayor."

"Our staff and volunteers will be ready to welcome you and answer any of your questions."

The open day will run from 11am to 3pm at the new offices.



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Campaign fails to save signal box

A FOUR-MONTH long campaign to save a historic signal box from demolition has ended in disappointment after Network Rail announced it would be torn down in October.

But campaigners in Banbury have been able to secure a ten-week postponement on the demolition so they can open it as a temporary visitor centre.

Earlier this year Network Rail announced it was going to tear down two signal boxes on the track near Banbury station as part of £78m upgrades to the network.

But since then more than 500 people joined a Facebook group demanding that the north box be saved and turned into an education centre for railway enthusiasts.

The group were told they would have to raise more than £160,000 to pay to keep the box, but despite setting up an online fundraising campaign they have not managed to raise enough money in time.

Campaigner and Banbury Civic Society member Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "I initially went into this because I wanted to preserve the box and find a use for it that Network Rail would support."

"There were a lot of ex-signalmen who had worked there who wanted it saved but clearly it was a big ask. I'm gutted really. If we had started this five years ago and people knew it was coming then



Despite a four-month campaign the signal box will be demolished in October

maybe we could have raised enough money."

The group managed to raise £17,500 through pledges by members of the public and donations by Banbury-based companies, including tool manufacturers Norbar Torque Tools and Peter Haines Engineers. The box was set to be demolished in August, but Network Rail has agreed to extend the period until October. It will mean railway enthusiasts and schools will be

able to visit the box and learn more about the railway's history, with volunteers provided by the operator.

Mr Kinchin-Smith added: "We got quite a lot of support from companies, we would like to thank them but unfortunately we could not get all the trustees we had hoped for."

"Initially we had set £60,000 on the Just Giving site, but it looks like the progress was not quick enough. At the end of the day it is Network Rail's

signal box though and they get the final decision."

Mr Kinchin-Smith said all cheques received by the campaign would be returned shortly. The box, which was built in 1901, is scheduled to be taken down when the area's signalling system is upgraded and moved from the town to the West Midlands. The south signal box is due to be demolished on July 30, while the north box will follow on October 8.

Man hurt after bottle attack fight

WITNESSES are being sought following a fight in Banbury where a man was struck in the face with a broken bottle.

At around 3.45pm on Sunday, May 15, on High Street, a fight broke out between one group of about five to seven men and a woman, and another two men.

A 23-year-old man who was part of the group of two men was hit in the face with a broken bottle.

He received injuries which required hospital treatment

but has since been discharged.

The offenders police are looking for are a group of five to seven white men aged between 18 and 30.

Investigating officer DS Robert Platt, of Force CID based at Banbury police station, said: "We are appealing for anyone who may have witnessed this assault to come forward. Please call us on 101."

A 30-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the incident. He was bailed until June 12.

MP makes pledge to preserve Green Belt

Victoria Prentis issues call for new housing developments to include more affordable homes

Kieran Davey
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VICTORIA Prentis has pledged to fight against any attempt to build starter homes on Green Belt land around Banbury.

It comes after the Banbury MP spoke about the need to build more affordable homes to help people in North Oxfordshire get on the housing ladder.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the *Banbury Cake*, Mrs Prentis said any new housing developments to be built in the area must include a quota of affordable homes.

She said: "Personally I think that when you have new de-

velopments you must make sure there is a mix of different sorts of homes.

"When you are building a big one you must make sure you have everything. That is true for both Banbury and Bicester."

"There are some very nice housing sites in Banbury but we need to recreate those when we build new housing estates."

"We do not want them to be enclaves but full of people of different ages and backgrounds, and we do not want to exclude anybody."

"We have already had seen a lot of developments like Graven Hill in Bicester where there has been lots of interest."

But the politician denied that homes in Banbury, even starter-homes, would be too expensive for first-time buyers.

She said: "There is the case in London where prices have sky-rocketed. It does seem like the situation is better in somewhere like Banbury."

The Housing and Planning Bill 2015, which was put forward by the previous government, means that discounts of 20 per cent will be avail-

able on new starter homes. Developers will face fewer obligations, such as requirements to pay for local infrastructure or provision of affordable rental homes, under the scheme.

Mrs Prentis said: "I think it's also important that Cherwell uses its Local Plan to help build homes."

But she said that starter homes should only be built on "brownfield" sites rather than Green Belt land.

She said: "We are trying very hard not to build on Green Belt sites and I am definitely against that."

"I have been talking to developers about using various sites, and to the MoD about sites in Bicester. Many of these are really beautiful areas and it is important that we do not lose them."

She added that she had spoken out against recent applications to build 5,000 new homes next to Lower Heyford, and for homes to be built in Hook Norton.

Two weeks ago, the Banbury MP raised the issue of starter homes with Prime Minister David Cameron during the weekly Prime Minister's Questions.

She said: "In Banbury and Bicester, we have unprecedented housing growth."

"Does the Prime Minister agree that we must build sufficient starter homes so that the dream of home ownership becomes something to which everybody can really aspire?"

In reply, Mr Cameron said that he was hoping to push through legislation that would mean an extra 200,000 starter homes would be built nationally.

■ See Victoria Prentis' new column on page 15.

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We do not want new developments to be enclaves but full of people of different ages and backgrounds, and we do not want to exclude anybody

– Victoria Prentis, right



£700k boost for abuse victims' hub

A TEAM of women committed to supporting survivors of sexual abuse, rape, domestic abuse and harassment have welcomed more than £700,000 from the National Lottery.

The Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) works with women from across the county and says the five-year fund of £712,641 from the Big Lottery Fund will enable it to extend its specialist sexual violence services to reach young women and girls.

This work, which will include support for those who have experienced sexual violence as well as preventative work to stop it from happening, is planned to be part of a project, provisionally called Support, Empower, Educate (SEE).

Spokeswoman Ellie Bennett said: "The SEE Project will expand OSARCC's holistic support services – face to face, group-work and helpline including text and email support – to reach younger women and girls, as well as building on our recent pilot work in schools and youth settings which is focussed on sexual violence, healthy relationships and consent.

"Strong partnership working will be key to the success of this work. OSARCC will build on our existing partnerships and we look forward to developing relationships with new partners as well.

"We are incredibly excited to develop the SEE Project, and immensely grateful to the Big Lottery."

Donation means pupils can learn cooking skills



Children at Frank Wise School in Banbury receive kitchen equipment from Barratt Homes

CHILDREN at a Banbury special school will be able to learn to cook healthy meals after being given a £500 donation to spend on kitchen equipment.

Frank Wise School, in Hornbeam Close, was given the funding by housebuilder Barratt Homes for the school's new post-16 department building.

The money has been spent on pots, pans, utensils, mixers and other domestic essentials to help students prepare meals and gain experience in living independently.

It will all be available to use when the new two-storey building, which is named the Griffiths Centre and will cater for 24 students, opens later in the summer.

The school's deputy headteacher Simon Knight said: "We're very grateful for the generous donation towards our new kitchen facilities.

"The Griffiths Centre will be instrumental in helping our students gain vital skills."

The housebuilder currently has homes for sale in the Longford Park development in Bodicote.

Adrian Farr, managing director for Barratt Homes's West Midlands branch, said: "We wanted to contribute to the new Griffiths Centre at Frank Wise School.

"When we heard they needed equipment for their new kitchen, so that their students could learn some cooking skills, we thought we'd pitch in."



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MAKING COUNTRY LIFE BETTER SINCE 1902

A splashing time beckons at pool

Town's popular open air facility ready for summer season from weekend

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

SUMMER might not be here quite yet, but that probably won't stop swimmers heading down to Banbury's outdoor pool when it opens this weekend.

The Woodgreen Leisure Centre pool is opening on Saturday to coincide with the start of the half-term holidays.

The pool is available for public swimming on weekdays from 3pm to 5pm, and weekends from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm.

Councillor George Reynolds, deputy leader of Cherwell District Council, which owns the pool, said: "We are delighted to once again be opening the doors to Woodgreen pool to welcome the first customers of the year.

"It remains one of the most popular facilities in Banbury and we know it will prove a popular resource for parents and children over the school holidays and weekends.

"It is a great place for people of all ages to come together to



Woodgreen Leisure Centre's outdoor pool opens next week

enjoy alfresco swimming, fun on the flume or relaxation in the sunshine."

In addition to the heated Olympic-sized pool there is a flume, interactive aqua splash area for toddlers and a snack bar.

Woodgreen Open Air Pool is operated by Legacy Leisure on behalf of Cherwell District Council and receives annual contributions from Banbury

Town Council towards the running costs.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "We look forward to welcoming the next generation of people to enjoy some fun in the sun at Woodgreen Open Air Pool."

For more information on opening times and fees visit leisurecentre.com/woodgreen-leisure-centre or call 01295 262742.



Banbury High Street

Town post office role bids plan

Franchise may be shop in centre of Banbury if scheme gets go-ahead

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

BANBURY Post Office is set for change after its owners confirmed that franchisees have come forward to take on its running.

In January the Post Office announced that the office in High Street would be one of 39 around the country to be franchised.

The plans were criticised by the Communication Workers Union, which represents post office workers, with area representative Sue Trehearne saying the staff had been left "shocked" and "unsettled" by the news.

She said that she feared the office would end up being at the back of a shop where people would be "bombarded" by other products instead of using the service.

The nine staff were told the news by a Post Office representative at a meeting at the office.

Potential franchisees had four weeks to come forward if

they were interested in hosting the service, and the Post Office has now confirmed talks are taking place with interested parties.

Once talks have been completed between the possible franchisees and the Post Office, there will be a six-week public consultation for people to have their say on the plans.

Post Office spokeswoman Melanie Corfield said there had been interest from firms in taking on the Post Office but would not confirm if they were in the town centre.

She did add though that the Post Office was still confident in finding a suitable town centre location for the service.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis is previously called for possible franchisees to come forward and take on the running of the service.

Speaking this week she said: "I am pleased that there has been some interest from partners that might want to take on the Post Office franchise in Banbury."

"I look forward to learning more in the public consultation that will take place in the near future."

"It is important to me that we keep a Post Office in Banbury town centre for those in the town and neighbouring villages."

New text service to help homeless

RESIDENTS in North Oxfordshire who want to offer support to rough sleepers can now take advantage of a new text service.

The Beacon Centre, which runs a drop-in centre in Banbury for homeless people, has launched the new number which will allow people to donate up to £10.

The money raised will be split between charities working within the Cherwell

district to support people who are at risk of homelessness.

Beacon co-ordinator Nigel Deakin said people should consider using the service rather than giving money to people directly who are sleeping rough.

He added: "At the moment, members of the public may often choose to give money to people who are homeless, or whom they think are homeless."

"Unfortunately this results in an increased problem as it can make it harder for vulnerable people to escape from an entrenched homelessness mentality and issues of substance misuse."

"It also hampers engagement with agencies set up for the purpose of homelessness reduction."

To make a donation text NOXF11 (space) £(amount) to 70070.

Care satisfaction

TWO in three people are "extremely or very satisfied" with the social care they receive in Oxfordshire, according to a new survey by the Department of Health.

The department received responses from 694 care users in the county, and found that 90 per cent were satisfied with their care.

Just 1.3 per cent were "extremely or very dissatisfied" with their level of care.

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Car home jobs

A £7M BANBURY nursing home will create 50 new jobs after work to double its capacity was started.

Green Pastures Nursing Home, in The Hawthorns, has begun construction on a new 60-bed unit which will house nursing facilities and dementia patients.

Chair of trustees Margaret Clark said: "Our modern facilities will enable us to provide our residents with top quality care and enable them to lead full and contented lives. With twice the present number of residents we look forward to continuing to serve Banbury and the surrounding area."

Academy place

A KEEN horticulturalist from Banbury has beat 1,200 applicants to secure a place at a "gardening" academy run by retailers Homebase.

Tom Howard, 24, will be taking part in a 12-month programme along with more than 30 other students to help kick start a career in gardening.

During that time he will learn about garden planning and design, work with top garden suppliers to develop product knowledge and gain a Royal Horticultural Society Level 1 Award qualification.

He will also work at the Banbury Homebase store in Southam Road.

Sticker swapping

STICKER-mad football fans can swap their Cristiano Ronaldo for a Wayne Rooney at a Euro 2016 session in Banbury this week.

The Sainsburys store in Oxford Road will be holding a children-only session from 3.30pm today, and another for the general public on Saturday from 11am.

The store will also be selling Panini sticker albums and packets of stickers.

Drambusting local brew

Acclaimed Cotswolds distillery set to launch its first single malt whisky

Tim Hughes
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THINK of single malt whisky, and one instantly imagines the heather-clad mountains of the Scottish Highlands.

But whisky connoisseurs could soon be heading to the rolling hills of the Cotswolds for a "wee dram", with the launch of one of England's few single malts.

The Cotswold Distillery, at Stourton, near Banbury, has bottled its first Cotswolds whisky – which will be ready for sale in October 2017.

The distillery, which was established by New Yorker Daniel Szor two years ago, already has a reputation for its acclaimed Cotswolds dry gin, but it is the launch of the single malt, which has got fans of the "hard stuff" excited. It will be one of just six single malts being produced in England.

An award-winning 18-month-old whisky spirit is already available for £34.95 for a half-litre. The single malt will retail for £44.95 for a standard 70cl bottle.

Both are made with local ingredients under the guidance of consultant master distiller Jim Swan – a Scot.

Daniel Szor, 53, a former City hedge fund manager, said: "This will put the Cotswolds on the whis-



Daniel Szor of Cotswold Distillery with the whisky

ky drinkers' map. Our whisky spirit already has an award, which isn't bad for the first whisky to come out of the Cotswolds.

"We are part of the growing world whisky movement, which is seeing great whiskies produced away from the drink's traditional homes in Scotland, Ireland and the USA. There are also great whis-

kies coming out of Japan, and last year's World Whisky Award winner came from Taiwan.

"We are just trying to make the best whisky we can.

"In a polite way we are giving the Scottish a run for their money. They make a wonderful spirit up there and we are paying homage in our process – but using Cotswold

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■ For details go to cotswoldsdistillery.com

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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FACCENDA
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Cafe offering visitors chance to give interactive artwork their own contribution

VISITORS to a Banbury cafe can add their own splashes of colour to the work of a local artist this week.

To celebrate Oxfordshire Artweeks, Ella Hendy is showcasing her paintings at Naomi's Cafe Bar in Bridge Street, and has bought along her paints to help people get involved.

Her "scribble series" of paintings show children beginning to draw on the wall as the wallpaper ripped – inspired by the artist's memories of writing on walls as a child.

She said: "To be given the freedom to get creative on such a grand scale was an absolute dream for me.

"It is a funny feeling handing over creative control of my own artwork in this way, but Naomi's Cafe has such a community feel it seems very fitting."

The first person to add their own design to the painting was cafe owner Naomi Perkins.

She said: "Putting paint to canvas was actually rather therapeutic.

"I would encourage people to not be shy or worry about getting it wrong as it is your mark and it makes all the difference."

North Oxfordshire Artweek finishes on Monday, May 30.



Ella Hendy and Naomi Perkins taking part in Banbury's Artweeks

A real honour for new chairwoman

Chris steps up to take on role after local elections held earlier this month

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

CHRIS Heath has been voted in as the new chairwoman of Cherwell District Council following the local elections.

The Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote councillor, who was vice-chairwoman last year, will replace the outgoing chairwoman Melanie Magee.

Kidlington councillor Maurice Billington was also voted in as vice-chairman at the council's annual general meeting last Tuesday.

Mrs Heath said: "It is a real honour to be elected as Cherwell's new chairwoman and I will endeavour to represent the council

with true dignity and poise. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to everything the role will bring over the next 12 months."

She added that the appointment was especially heartfelt as it has been a decade since her late husband Eric took up the same post on the council.

She was first elected to the district council in 2010 to represent the Bloxham ward, the same year her husband stepped down from the council after 11 years of service.

For her charity of the year she chose Second Time Around, which is based in Banbury and helps provide furniture restoration opportunities for young people.

As her first official act as chairwoman, Mrs Heath received a coat of arms on behalf of the council from former Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry.

Paid for by the former politician, it is the first time the council has got its own coat of arms, which features a wavy blue line in the centre to represent the River Cherwell as well as designs depicting the M40

and the Oxford Canal. The coat of arms will be displayed at the council's headquarters at Bodicote House, on the chairman's chain and a flag which will fly above the council chamber for meetings and other civic occasions.

Mrs Heath said: "As a council, we are extremely grateful to Sir Tony for this coat of arms and proud to be able to unveil it at the first meeting of the new council following this month's local elections.

"This council was formed in 1974 but has never had its own coat of arms so this gift has been a long time in the making.

"As the new chairman of the council I am honoured to be the first to wear the chain featuring the new coat of arms and hope it will present an even brighter and more prosperous future for Cherwell and its residents."

Mrs Magee left the position after deciding not to stand in this month's local elections.

The meeting also saw two changes to the council's executive committee.

Colin Clarke was appointed as the new lead member for planning, replacing Michael Gibbard while Lynn Pratt was

chosen to be the new lead member for estates and economy in place of Norman Bolster.



Cherwell chairwoman Chris Heath, left, with former chairwoman Melanie Magee

Peer at EU meet

OXFORD academic and Labour peer Lord Stewart Wood will be throwing his support behind his party's "In" Europe campaign at a public meeting on Thursday.

The meeting, at the Cornhill Centre, Castle Street in Banbury from 8pm, has been organised by the Banbury and Bicester Labour Party.

Lord Wood, who has taught at Oxford University since 1995, said: "The decision we make on June 23 will have lasting significance for all of us in this country, and I passionately believe that our prosperity, influence and security will be greater if we vote to remain."

Bike destroyed

A MOTORBIKE was stolen from a Chipping Norton property and later found destroyed in a nearby field, according to Thames Valley Police.

The Yamaha was taken from outside a building in Cornish Road between Thursday, May 12, and Friday, May 13. Police have only just released details of the theft.

The bike was found burned out in a green space behind the Cornish Road flats some time later.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 and quote crime reference number 43160131000.

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Scales of justice

A ROUND-UP of cases heard recently at Oxford and Banbury Magistrates' Courts:
OXFORD

William Washington, 56, of The Poundhouse, The Lane, Hempton, was convicted in his absence of riding in the front passenger seat of a vehicle without wearing a seatbelt in Horse Fair, Banbury, on July 19 last year. Fined £30 and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge.

Marcin Janasik, 24, of Centre Street, Banbury, admitted driving without insurance in High Street, Banbury, on September 6 last year. Also admitted driving otherwise in accordance with a licence and driving without a valid test certificate. Fined £300 and ordered to pay a £30 victim surcharge and £85 costs. Driving licence endorsed with six points.

BANBURY

Aaron Lambirth, 26, of Grimsbury Drive, Banbury, found guilty of drink-driving in a Volkswagen Golf in Ermont Way, Banbury, on December 24 last year. Had 85 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the 35 microgramme limit. Handed a £400 fine and ordered to pay £40 victim surcharge and £750 costs. Also banned from holding or obtaining a driving licence for 40 months.

Daniel Brown, 18, of Perth Court, Denmark Hill Estate, London, admitted possessing a large silver carving knife in public in Broughton Road, Banbury, on April 19 this year. Handed a community order and told to carry out 80 hours' unpaid work. Also ordered to pay £85 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

Claire Reid, 23, of Farnborough Road, Mollington, admitted stealing three bottles of washing liquid worth £39 from Tesco in Banbury on May 5. Also admitted criminal damage to a police cell at Banbury Police Station, Warwick Road, on March 23 this year and committing an offence while subject to a nine-month conditional discharge imposed by Banbury Magistrates' Court on January 20 for theft. Handed a £80 fine and £30 victim surcharge.

Neil Saunders, 43, of Jubilee Court, Banbury, admitted possessing a locking knife in public in Jubilee Court, Banbury on February 11. Handed a £120 fine and £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

Nursery voted top of the tots

Firm behind care centre has been ranked among best via online feedback from users

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

A BANBURY nursery has got the mark of approval from parents in a national online survey.

Staff at Smart Tots Day Nursery and Pre-School in Horsefair are celebrating the news that their parent group, Complete Childcare, has been named as one of the top 10 large nursery groups in the country.

The awards were created by online nursery resource daynurseries.co.uk, and were based on direct feedback from more than 22,000 reviews from parents, relatives and guardians of children who attend nurseries in the UK.

Smart Tots general manager Gemma Froude, pictured, said: "This is very exciting news for us."

"So many parents use the internet to find childcare these days and to receive such a good result from parents using our nursery is fantastic."

"It is a great achievement for the team."

The group, the only one in the south west to be included in the award, has been working with families in the Banbury area for more than 20 years.

Among the parents who commented on the website was 'Gemma A', who said: "My son has settled in amazingly and all the staff are lovely and welcoming. Nothing is too much trouble for them."

"My son has already learnt a lot of new skills and really enjoys spending time at the nursery."

'Sammy', another parent whose son started at the nursery in February aged six months, said: "We were apprehensive and nervous as to how he would adapt."

"The staff at the nursery were absolutely wonderful. We received regular updates during the day with phone calls and on collection it was clear he was very happy and content."

"He has settled in wonderfully and loves the gentle and hands-on approach."

The nursery has about 18 members of staff and can take up to 80 young children.

On the website the nursery received a score of 9.5 out of 10.



Mark Conway, left, from Michael Jones Jeweller with Banbury United commercial director Mark Allitt

Jeweller backs club

BANBURY United players may be celebrating their recent promotion but a new sponsorship agreement added some more sparkle to their season.

The club has announced that Michael Jones Jeweller will continue to sponsor the first team's tracksuits for the 2016/17 season. The team won promotion to the Southern League Premier Division earlier this month after beating Taunton Town 2-0 in their play-off final.

The club's commercial director Mark Allitt said: "The Michael Jones team have been extremely loyal to

the club and like all our sponsors have helped us get back into the league at the first attempt."

The shop also sponsored the fan-owned club's Sporting Auction back in March.

Store manager Mark Conway said: "We're delighted to be sponsoring the club again as they move back into the Southern League Premier Division. We're very pleased to see how successful the fan ownership model has been."

"We want to help the fans push the club forward even more."



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Lensman capturing Cotswolds

GAVIN Preuss is full of enthusiasm about staging his first exhibition, a photographic record of the delicacy of the natural world recorded in the wonderful local scenery, bright coloured flowers against a black background, and his delight in these tiny wonders within a lush English backdrop is clear.

"I've been trying to capture the Cotswolds," he laughs. "Things become so familiar when we inhabit a place that we stop appreciating their beauty. My wife and I love walking in the English countryside, perhaps particularly as neither of us grew up here both were city dwellers originally. My wife was the daughter of a diplomat, living all over the world, and I grew up in the suburbs of Cape Town. Maybe that makes us see the countryside in a different way? And having the time and freedom to explore it seems an enormous privilege."

"Wherever I have gone, I've taken pictures of the things that are different from the familiar and so now it is interesting to capture intricacies of my home environment, a dragonfly or a blossom flower within a panoramic view, for example, real moments rather than perfection."

"I bought my first camera when I was eight, from a toy shop. It was made of plastic and had no focus or other capabilities. It took terribly blurred photos but I loved it. I'd always coveted my parents



ESTHER LAFFERTY follows one man's journey through photography, as Gavin Preuss from Balscote shows his work for Oxfordshire Artweeks



old Kodak which was too precious for me to use and it was a long time before I had a camera where I could control the aperture and shutter."

"My family was a working-class family, but being white in the 1970s gave you an automatic place. The culture of South African society at the time was racist and yet Christian too and I never questioned either

belief system until I was in my early twenties. As my thinking broadened, and I increasingly worked with communities of all backgrounds I began to see the reality more clearly. I made some good black friends having never previously conversed with anyone from a different background, and slowly discounted the stereotypes white children in

South Africa were fed at the time. This was the start of a journey away from religion and into activism."

Gavin was running an organisation dealing with violence in KwaZulu-Natal, the bloodiest province in South Africa when he was offered a job for an NGO in Kosovo designing and managing projects to bring Serbs and

Albanians together. He spent two years in the Balkans before becoming Oxfam's Global Conflict Advisor, moving to Oxford in 2003.

"My wife and I loved it here from the moment we arrived, the freedom to move through the countryside and that feeling of safety relative to previous places, and the people too."

When Gavin's time at Oxfam came to an end, he was offered roles in Sierra Leone and Indonesia but he made the conscious decision to settle here. "I have now lived in Balscote, a small village near Banbury, for eight years, and it's the longest I have ever lived in any dwelling."

Gavin and his wife now run their own company, Beyond Conflict, providing mediation and restorative justice services for local businesses and councils, and family group conferencing. In addition, Gavin has taken the time to focus more on his professional photography, which he loves.

Gavin is a recent convert to digital photography, and most of his pictures have been taken using film. He bought his first digital SLR camera three years ago, joining Banbury Camera Club, which was both inspirational and supportive with their advice.

A selection of his most recent photographs will be on show alongside previous series of images in St Mary's Church, Chadlington until May 30 as part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks festival (11 am-6pm; venue 345). Visit www.artweeks.org

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LOVE & FRIENDSHIP (U, 93 mins)
Comedy/Drama/Romance. **Kate Beckinsale, Chloe Sevigny, Xavier Samuel, Justin Edwards, Emma Greenwell, James Fleet, Jemma Redgrave, Morfydd Clark, Tom Bennett, Lochlann O'Mearain, Stephen Fry.**
Director: **Whit Stillman**
BOSOMS heave, corsets strain and venomous one-liners land with marksman-like precision in Whit Stillman's delicious period romantic comedy, based on Jane Austen's novella *Lady Susan*.

The acclaimed New York-born writer-director polishes a very British tale of stifled emotions and rigid etiquette to a glorious lustre.

The lead character's complete lack of scruples in a world where appearances are everything and rumour can scorch a lady's reputation beyond repair, is a delight to behold. Stillman gifts this peach of a role to Kate Beckinsale and she savours ever acid-laced bon mot with relish.

Lady Susan Vernon (Beckinsale) is concerned about rumours that have begun to circulate about her relationship with smitten suitor Lord Manwaring (Lochlann O'Mearain). She seeks refuge with her late husband's family on their vast estate.

Charles Vernon (Justin Edwards) is blind to Lady Susan's capacity for mayhem, but his wife, Catherine (Emma Greenwell), is less trusting, especially when their house guest charms her handsome younger brother, Reginald (Xavier Samuel).

Complicating matters, Lady Susan must find a wealthy suitor for her daughter, Frederica (Morfydd Clark), and she resolves to force a love match with Sir James Martin (Tom Bennett).

Lady Susan's trusted confidante in tangled affairs of the heart is the equally unshockable Alicia Johnson

(Chloe Sevigny), who has burdened herself with an older husband (Stephen Fry).

As the scheming socialite's web of lies unravels, she must think quickly on her feet to maintain her standing with her cadre of ardent supporters.

Love & Friendship is a rare tonic.

Period detail and costumes are impeccable, but it is Stillman's riotous reinvention of Austen's little-known novella that glitters brightest.

Every back-handed compliment lands like a sharp slap to the chops, eliciting so much laughter in some scenes that a couple of zinging one-liners are lost in our mounting delirium.

MONEY MONSTER (15, 99 mins) Thriller/Action. **George Clooney, Julia Roberts, Jack O'Connell, Dominic West, Caitriona Balfe, Christopher Denham, Giancarlo Esposito, Lenny Venito, Emily Meade.**

Director: **Jodie Foster**
MONEY talks – and it says exceedingly ugly things – in Jodie Foster's tense hostage thriller, which unfolds largely in real time during a live television broadcast.

Anchored by strong performances from George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Derbyshire-born rising star Jack O'Connell, *Money Monster* overcomes some preposterous plot twists and a noticeable lull in the middle act to keep us on the edge of our seats.

The opening 30 minutes are particularly lean and mean, capturing the frenetic whirl and chaos of a TV studio as staff behind and in front of the cameras prepare for show time.

Scriptwriters Jamie Linden, Alan DiFiore and Jim Kouf pull off a jaw-dropping coup with the introduction of the hostage taker's pregnant girlfriend (Emily Meade), who we expect to tearfully plead for him to down his weapon for the sake of their unborn child.



Chloe Sevigny and Kate Beckinsale in *Love and Friendship*; right, George Clooney in *Money Monster*

In these moments, *Money Monster* kicks like a mule and knocks the stuffing out of us.

However, once the central plot of skullduggery reveals its intentions, Foster's iron-tight grasp on realism slackens and she is compelled to take risky gambles to engineer a slam-bang finale.

Money Monster is a cautionary tale about the get-rich-quick mentality of a modern society that blindly trusts in technology to deliver rewards.

Clooney and Roberts generate molten screen chemistry, even though she is just a voice in his ear for the majority of the film, and O'Connell maintains his accent as events escalate.

Cake Bookworm

This Must Be The Place by Maggie O'Farrell is published in hardback by Tinder Press, priced £18.99 (eBook £9.49)

NORTHERN Irish author Maggie O'Farrell has revealed a knack for capturing the bald truths of marriage in all their spiky, broken, loving fragments. *This Must Be The Place* is just as well executed, the story of alcoholic Daniel and his sprawling, fractured family, punctuated heavily by the pull of his enigmatic and reclusive former-movie star wife, Claudette. It leaps from New York to Ireland to France and Scandinavia as Daniel's world is shattered, first by an ex-girlfriend's voice caught on the radio, and second, by a pitilessly fired bullet. O'Farrell see-saws between the past and present, tugging on the strands that make up the weave of his whiskey-soaked predicament. It is deeply affecting, most especially when exploring the meaning of fatherhood and the devastating fault

lines caused by grief. But it's also glamorous, subtle, knowing, and stuffed to bursting with feeling. **When I Was Invisible by Dorothy Koomson is published in hardback by Century, priced £12.99 (eBook £7.99)**

DOROTHY Koomson's 11th novel is a tale of two best friends who meet as eight-year-old wannabe dancers. They share the same views and even the same names: Veronica 'Roni' Harper and Veronika 'Nika' Harper. Joined at the hip, they pledge that nothing will drive them apart. But a seismic event tears them from each other – ripping the soul from Nika, and leading to Roni's religious salvation. Slowly Koomson drip-feeds you events and shows with great heart how they can lead to a crossroads. Nika adopts a new life as Grace, running away to live as her true self, whereas teenage Roni runs to the church and begins to live as Sister Grace. But there is an unholy noise

that needs to be quelled. **Lingua Franca by William Thacker is published in paperback by Legend Press, priced £8.99 (eBook £3.79)**

MILES Platting is the disengaged founder of naming rights company Lingua Franca, which matches corporate sponsors with cash-strapped towns. After his staff head to Barrow-In-Furness to rename it Birdseye, the legacy of a recent tragedy hanging over them, he wakes alone in a mysterious hospital where no one is permitted to speak and the nurses only want him to write his story. While deciphering original identities is an amusing distraction – *Lingua Franca* is based in Stella Artois, formerly Milton Keynes – the novel's paper-thin characterisation and jumbled narration struggle to maintain attention. It's a bundle of interesting concepts: the importance of names and language; class and culture clashes. Unfortunately, it's just not that interesting a story.



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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Conscientious objection, then and now: New Road Baptist Church, Bonn Square, Oxford. Speakers and panel discussion. 7.30pm. Free but donations welcome. 01865 251421.

Portraits of Julia Margaret Cameron: Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. To mark the bi-centenary of Julia Margaret Cameron's birth, this talk will explore her innovative photography. 3.45pm. Free. 01865 278000.

Pottery painting for a gift: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Make a signature plate or a special piece of pottery to give as a wedding, christening, house warming, leaving or birthday gift. Booking required. 7pm. £10-£20. 01235 511550.

FRIDAY

Country & Western Dance: Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton. Carterton Country Music Club. Dancing to Clear Cut (trio). 8.30pm. £6. 01993 850682.

Dance and Movement – Over 50 Years: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 2pm. £4 per session. 01235 515144.

National Gardens Scheme: Old Swan and Minster Mill, Minster Lovell. Formal gardens, a kitchen garden and 40 acres of wild flower meadows. Some gravel areas and steps. Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Teas. 2pm. Adult £5, chd free. 01993 774441.

SATURDAY

Antique & Collectors Market: Kidlington Methodist Church, Oxford Road, Kidlington. 10am. Free admission. 01865 371494.

Bothy Vineyard Open Days: Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath. 11am. Free. 01865 390067.

Carterton Lions charity car boot sale: Carterton Recreation Ground, Alvescot Road, Carterton. 8.30am. Shoppers free, pitches £6 and £12. 01993 772241.

Country Show: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Vintage vehicles, birds of prey, pets' corner, llamas, dog agility, live music and dance, children's entertainment and more. Fun dog show from 2pm. 10am. Adults £5, children/OAPs £3, under 5s free. 01491 833938.

East Hagbourne Scarecrow Trail: New Road, Main Road, Blewbury Road, East Hagbourne. 'Shakespeare and all that' theme. Maps available for £1 from the East Hagbourne Community Shop and The Fleur de Lys. 10am. 01235 813826.

Laser clay shooting weekend: Millets Falconry Centre, Millets Farm, Frilford. Suitable for ages 10+. 10.30am. Included in the entrance fee to falconry centre. 03330 118527.

Paper craft demo day: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Michelle Johnson demonstrates paper crafting techniques. 10am. Free. 01235 511550.

Plant sale: Orchard Centre, Central Drive, Didcot. Plant sale in support of Didcot Twinning Association. 10am. 01235 816602.

Seed and seedling swap and sale: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. 10am. Free. 07768 767787.

The Blenheim Palace Food Festival: Blenheim Palace, Woodstock. See <http://goo.gl/piZJaJ> 10am. Entry with a valid Park and Gardens ticket or Annual Pass.

Walk (Fieldpaths): St Andrew's Church, Kingham. SP258237 5.4 miles. A quiet level walk in the Evenloade valley via Bledington. Bring refreshments for en route break. Assistance dogs only. 10am.

01295 810771.

Witney Buttercross Sugarcraft Club: Ducklington Village Hall, Standlake Road, Ducklington. Demonstration by Ali Bingham, an expert in Royal icing techniques. 2pm. Members £3, visitors £5. 01993 705508.

SUNDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Layby at east end of the village, A41 Waddesdon. Circular 11.5-mile walk via Oving, then joining Aylesbury outer ring via North Marston and Quainton. Picnic lunch. Registered assistance dogs only. 10am. 07751 196132.

Drop In and Create – Playing with Pattern (all ages): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. All children must be accompanied by an adult. 10am. Free. 01235 515144.

National Gardens Scheme: The Old Rectory, Salford, Chipping Norton. 1.5 acres mainly walled garden. Partial wheelchair access. Homemade teas in village hall. 2pm. Adult £4, chd free. 01608 643969.

National Gardens Scheme: Barton Abbey, Middle Barton. 15-acre garden with views from house (not open) across sweeping lawns and picturesque lake. Wheelchair access. Plant sale. Dogs on leads. Teas. 2pm. Adult £5, chd free.

National Gardens Scheme: Old Whitehill Barn, Tackley. Newly opening this year, one-acre country garden on a sloping site around a stone barn conversion. Wheelchair access. Teas. 2pm. Adult £4, chd free.

Plant sale, teas, pig roast: Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay. Plant sale in aid of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum. Teas, free-range pig roast. Sale of sustainable wood products. 11am. £2 for adults, children under 18 free. 01865 343501.

Rare plant fair: Kingston Bagpuize House, Kingston Bagpuize. Visit www.rareplantfair.co.uk for full details. 11am. Adults £5, children £3.

MONDAY

Harwell Feast: Harwell Recreation Ground, Reading Road, Harwell. Parade of floats and vintage vehicles to the recreation ground where there will be stalls and activities plus animal encounters in the village hall. 11am. Adults £3, children (16 years and under) Free. 01235 834765.

National Gardens Scheme: Church Farm Field, Epwell. Woods, arboretum with wild flowers (planting started 1992). Over 90 different trees and shrubs in 4.5 acres. Dogs on leads. Teas. 2pm. Adult £2, children free.

National Gardens Scheme: Meadow Cottage, Christmas Common. 1.75-acre garden adjoining ancient bluebell woods, created by the owner from 1995 onwards. Wheelchair access. Dogs on leads. Plant sale. Teas. Coaches welcome. 11am. Adult £5, chd free. 01491 613779.

National Gardens Scheme: Denton House, Denton. Large walled garden surrounds a Georgian mansion (not open), with shaded areas, walks, topiary and many interesting mature trees. Large lawns and herbaceous borders and rose beds. The windows in the wall were taken in 1864 from Brasenose College Chapel and Library. Wild garden. Wheelchair access. Teas. Coaches welcome. 2pm. Adult £5, chd free.

TUESDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Village Car Park, Great Tew. Moderate 10-mile circular walk via Little Tew, Heythorpe and Gagingwell. Picnic lunch. Leader Mary Gough. 10am. 07939 826412.

Children's craft activities – May half term: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Craft activities day

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

themed around the Queen's birthday. Pottery painting, button art, sewing corgis, weaving, bug houses, wet felting, soldier skittles, paper jewellery. 9am. Price depends on activity. 01235 511550.

Children's Workshop – Wildlife Photography: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay. Bring your digital camera, learn from our expert and practise your wildlife photography skills on our nature reserve. Best photo of the day will win a prize. For children aged 7+, no younger accompanying siblings. Booking essential. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a picnic lunch. 10am. £10 per child, accompanying adults free. 01235 862024.

Half-Term Clay Sculpture – Marble Run and Other Toys (ages 5–12 years): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 1.30pm. £17.50 (includes £2.50 for materials and firing). 01235 515144.

Kidlington & District Historical Society: St John Ambulance Hall, High Street, Kidlington. A talk by Bill King entitled 'On Two Wheels', the story of the bicycle. 7.50pm. Visitors £3.50 and under 26's 50p. 01865 375758.

WEDNESDAY

Drop-in family event – Bath bombs away!: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Harrison's Lane, Woodstock. Make something explosive for your bath. 2pm. Free for kids with a paying adult. 01993 811214.

Making Dreamcatchers: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. 7.30pm. £18. 01235 511550.

Malaria, the war beyond the Western Front: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. In this lecture, Prof Mark Harrison will examine the British Army's fight against one of its most implacable foes – the mosquito. 6.45pm. £15. 01993 810211.

What happens when literature swears? Working-class life and the pursuit of literature, from John Clare to James Kelman: Oxford Brookes University, John Henry Brookes Lecture Theatre, Headington Campus, Gypsy Lane, Oxford. Prof Simon Kövesi will investigate class and literature ranging across British writers from the early 19th century through to the present day. 6pm. Free. 01865 484846.

Wildlife Wednesday: Thrupp Lake, Thrupp Lane, Radley. Learn about local wildlife. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free; no need to book. 2pm. 01865 407792.

Woodland Adventure: Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Discover the Earth Trust's woodland, where we'll explore, build and play. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. 10am. 01865 407792.

Music

THURSDAY

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: English Music Festival. £20, £25. 7pm.

Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Lunchtime Recital – EU Referendum, a Musical Hustings. Free. 12.30pm. 01993 702296.

Merton College, Merton Street, Oxford: Chapel Organ Recitals. Stephen

Hamilton (New York) plays a selection of music on the Dobson Organ. Free. 1.15pm.

St Frideswide Church, Botley Road, Osney: Recital by Cotswold Piano Trio. £5. Includes a glass of wine and nibbles. 7.30pm. 01865 722070.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Baby Strange, White. Punk/grunge. 7pm. £8.

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Sérgio and Odair Assad Recital. Classical guitar duo. 5pm. Free.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Emma Pollock, R M Hubbard, Water Pageant. Scottish singer-songwriter and former member of The Delgados. 7pm. £8.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Dewa Budjana Band. The Spin Jazz Club. Indonesian jazz guitarist. 8.30pm. £12, £10 (conc), £8 (student).

New Theatre, Oxford, 2 George Street, Oxford: Legend of a Band. All-star tribute to The Moody Blues. 7.30pm. £26.15.

The Cock Inn, Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8pm. Free.

FRIDAY

Coty Arms, High Street, Burford: Joe Holic. Free. 9pm. 01993 822227.

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: English Music Festival. £20, £25. 7pm.

The Northcourt (Abingdon Utd FC), 3 Northcourt Road, Abingdon: A Foreigner's Journey – Foreigner & Journey tribute band. £10 advance, £12 door. 7.30pm. 01235 856076.

The Swan Hotel, Radcot, Bampton: Laurence. Free. 8.30pm. 01367 810220.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Novana, Rival Karma, Ravens. Nirvana tribute band celebrating 25th anniversary of release of *Nevermind*. 6.30pm. £10.

Fat Lil's, 64a Corn Street, Witney: Texas Ghost Train. Rhythm and blues. 10pm.

SATURDAY

Abingdon Conservative Club, Ock Street, Oxford: Steve Ashall. 9pm. 01235 525305.

Concerts are at St Peter's Church, Thames Street, Wallingford: The Band of Music presents a programme of music by Purcell, Blow, Handel, Boyce, Godfrey Finger, James Paisible and Johann Christian Bach. £14 or £12 in advance. 8pm. 01491 824792.

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: English Music Festival. £20, £25. 7pm.

Littlebury Hotel, King's End, Bicester: Kev G. Free. 9pm. 07941 416722.

Plough East Hendred, Orchard Lane, East Hendred: Joe Holic. Free. 9pm. 01235 833213.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Computers, Cassels, The Ghost Riders In The Sky. Garage rock. 6.30pm. £8.

The Artyard Café, The Drive, Enstone: Texas Ghost Train. Rhythm and blues. 8.30pm. Free.

South Park, Oxford: Common People Oxford 2016. Duran Duran, Katy B, Soul II Soul, Jamie Lawson, Kurupt FM, The Cuban Brothers, Chas & Dave & more. 11am-late. £27.50 (day), £49.50

(weekend), student/family/child concessions available.

SUNDAY

Bicester Services Club, Sheep Street, Bicester: C.Ody. 5pm. 01869 245367.

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: English Music Festival. £20, £25. 7pm.

Kingston House Estate, Kingston Blount: Status Quo Live with support from Wilko Johnson and others. £40 advance tickets (plus fees), £50 on the door. 2pm. 08445 811248.

St Marys Church, Barrington Park Estate, The New Estate Office, Great Barrington, Burford: Out Of The Ashes. Free. 10.30am. 01451 861 195.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford: Fleur Stevenson Trio (vocals, piano & bass). Jazz. 6.30-9pm. Free.

MONDAY

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames: English Music Festival. £20, £25. 7pm.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Daniel Romano, Kacy & Clayton. Canadian folk-rock singer songwriter. 7.30pm. £12.

TUESDAY

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Temper Trap, Dreller. Australian rockers on UK tour. 7pm. £12.50.

WEDNESDAY

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Recital. Natalie Clein, cello, and Christian Ihle Hadland, piano. £15/£10 (students £5). 8pm.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Coasts plus Hunter. Indie-poppers. 7pm. £10 (adv).

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until May 28, *The Oxford German Play: Woyzeck*. Performed in German with subtitles. 7.30pm. £6 (£5). May 31-Jun 4, *No Exit*. By Jean-Paul Satre. 7.30pm. £6 (£5). 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: May 28, Junior Simpson, Jo Caulfield, Jamali Maddix and Michael Legge. 7.15pm. £14.50. June 3, Sara Pascoe. 8pm. £12. 0871 472 04007.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: May 26, *Dinosaur Park*. £12, £10. May 27, *mapdance* 2016. 7.30pm. £12, £10. May 28, *James Veitch: Dot Con*. 8pm. £12, £10. 01865 305305.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: May 30-Jun 1, *Gruffalo's, Ladybirds & Other Beasts*. 11am and 2.30pm. £13 (£11). June 1, *Mark Watson: I'm Not Here*. 7.30pm. £18 (£16). 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: May 27-28, *West End to Broadway – 70 Showstopping Years*. 7.30pm. £22.65 plus £4 transaction fee. May 29, *Menopause The Musical*. 7.30pm. £27.90 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 3020.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: May 28, *Mark Thompson: The Show at the End of the Universe*. 7pm. Age guide 14+. £15, £13.50 (concs). May 29, *Shakespeare Untold* (suitable for ages 5+). Family-friendly double bill from The Globe. 2pm. £14, £12 (concs), £10 under 16s, £40 family ticket. 01235 515144.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: May 28, Zandra Rhodes. 1pm. £25. 01608 642350.

In-form Banbury keep on winning

Skipper Sabin shines in rain-affected victory over Burnham



Lloyd Sabin top-scored with 64 in Banbury's win over Burnham

BANBURY

BANBURY	
H Darby & Khan	22
C Ptaugh & Haron	44
L Sahin & bin	64
K Ptaugh & c Javed & Khan	0
J West & Gandam	10
W Hawtin & c Aslam & Gandam	20
L Ryan & c Kumar & Malik	29
K Penhale not out	15
O Wright not out	29
Extras	27
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	235
Fall: 1-54, 2-137, 3-139, 4-157, 5-171, 6-210, 7-215.	
Bowling: Haron 10-1-38-1, Singh 2-0-14-0, Malik 10-1-29-1, Aslam 5-0-34-0, Khan 10-0-30-2, Javed 8-0-47-1, Gandam 5-0-33-2.	
BURNHAM	
A Javed & c Hawtin & Penhale	3
O Siddique run out	30
H Gandam & c Hawtin & Ryan	23
A Khan & bin	5
K Kumar & c Wright	3
F Raja bow West	0
A Malik & c Hawtin & Sabin	8
S Javed run out	4
Aslam & c Taylor & c Wright	8

M Haroon b Wright	8
R Singh not out	0
Extras	12
Total (all out, 17.5 ovs)	109

Fall: 1-5, 2-42, 3-53, 4-65, 5-65, 6-84, 7-92, 8-96, 9-109.

Bowling: Penhale 4-1-16-1, Taylor 2-0-8-0, Wright 3.5-0-25-3
Ryan 3-0-17-2, West 4-0-29-1, Sabin 1-0-5-1.

LATEST TABLE

	Division 1							
	P	W	L	D	A	Bn	Pn	Pts
Banbury	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	60
Henley	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	60
H Wycombe	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	46
Tring Park	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	46
Burnham	3	1	2	0	0	7	0	33
Grt & L Tew	3	1	1	0	1	6	0	32
Slough	3	0	2	0	1	16	0	22
Finchampstd	3	0	2	0	1	14	0	20
Harefield	3	0	2	0	1	10	0	16
Reading	3	0	3	0	0	8	0	16

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Your artistic abilities come to the fore and you no longer feel the need to do what looks right, but you'll be doing what feels right instead. Gemini's link to new and improved avenues opening up in the workplace from Tuesday. Don't cancel nights out with friends, as they are forecast to be just what the doctor ordered. Ring now to hear which sign is let down gently.

0906 585 4360



LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You could find yourself being taken advantage of if you are not careful this week Libra. Try to be aware of what you are agreeing to, as many of the signs will be trying to get their own way, without considering what is best for you. The temptation to do something you shouldn't in love could see you the talk of your inner circle. Ring now to hear which sign I know can fulfil you.

0906 585 4366



TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Travel is well started and you should find yourself visiting some new and exciting places over the course of the next seven days. Try not to have too strong an opinion on things you know nothing about or you could end up casting yourself in an immature light to the very faces you are trying to impress. Ring now to hear why many of you Taurans will be thinking of moving house soon.

0906 585 4361



SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You will be able to see with clarity this week who is good for you and who has been dragging you down. From Tuesday, you take steps to part ways with those who are a negative influence and you feel better and stronger for it. Don't tell tales on those you work with midweek or it could come back on you tenfold. Ring now to hear which sign can't get you off their mind.

0906 585 4367



GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Travel may make in the money your career pays dividends and you start to aim higher and dream bigger. You can afford to Gemini, as you have come on in leaps and bounds this year and things are going to continue to get brighter for you. Family prove loving and stressful, but keep going as you are giving a close one great support this month. Ring now to hear which sign has news to benefit you.

0906 585 4362



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Someone who you thought was a good influence on you has shown a side to themselves which has left you with doubts as to whether they should be a part of your life at all! Go slow, as this week is set to reveal much about the way they behaved as they did. Family make it hard for you to find all the time you want, but for a worthy reason. Ring now to hear about the love I see.

0906 585 4368



CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Finances come to the fore and you start to realise that you allowed to control your life and that you don't have to bow down and do what everyone else wants all the time. A tired mind this weekend could see you cancelling the very events you needed to attend to get a moral boost. Plans of travel are met with some difficult pressure from family. Rise above it. Ring now so I can help you succeed.

0906 585 4363



CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

There is a really strong air of excitement in the stars which is making it hard for you not to try to cast yourself as immature and giddy to those who are only just meeting you. Enjoy yourself and have fun Capricorn. You have needed to blow off some steam for days now. Business negotiations can go well if dealt with on Wednesday. Ring now for the full story.

0906 585 4369



LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

There are many rewards to be gained from working hard this week, but that may mean you having to give up some of your spare time in order to complete things. A clash with someone you used to have a lot in common with is bringing you down and it may be a case of you having to deal only with the person concerned rather than third parties. Ring now so I can show you your future.

0906 585 4364



AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Family and close ones need your urgent attention for reasons which are going to mean a lot to both of you. It appears that you've been helping them move on from something which has, and continues to affect them. You're playing the role of counsellor, and you do it very well. In fact they should be proud of yourselves! Ring now so I can tell you how Saturn intends to improve finances.

0906 585 4370



VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Those born under the sign of Libra can help you succeed in business and financial affairs this week, so keep them close. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't know all the answers. It's the only way you're going to be able to fill in those important blanks. The departure of a familiar face leaves you feeling nostalgic for the past. Ring now so we can make this week the best it can be.

0906 585 4365



PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

There are several challenges which will all require your attention over the coming days but I am sure that you can achieve and succeed with each and every one of them. A good week to break bad habits and to begin a healthier life style. It's sure to have a knock on effect on all areas of your life if you do. Ring now so I can tell you what an age gap may not be a bad thing for your sign!

0906 585 4371



Victoria Prentis Westminster Views

MP FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



It's one year on and I'm into the rhythm of Westminster

IT is really good to have the chance to report back in a monthly column in the *Banbury Cake*.

One year in, I'm getting the hang of some of the more arcane traditions at Westminster, and settling into a routine.

I usually start Mondays with a surgery or meetings locally and then get the train from either Banbury or Bicester to Parliament.

We often don't finish until shortly before 11pm so I usually sleep in London on Monday and Tuesday nights.

The rest of the week varies depending on Parliamentary business. I do spend a fair amount of time on trains.

This isn't always wasted; many of my constituents do the same so I usually meet someone with something important to talk about.

My Tuesday mornings are always taken up with the Justice Committee. It is good to use

knowledge from my previous career to contribute to our inquiries with court fees, young adult offenders and reform in prisons. I also attend the Statutory Instruments committee weekly scrutinising new legislation, and have sat on various Bill and Delegated Legislation Committees.

My years as a Government lawyer are proving to be useful.

I am proud to be part of a Conservative majority government and really believe that our policies are putting us on the right track both nationally and locally, contributing to the healthy state of Banbury's economy.

However, this does not mean I can't ask questions when I don't believe a plan is in our best interests. Examples of this include fairer funding for Oxfordshire's schools (to which the Government agreed following backbench pressure), HS2 (no concessions yet, but I am pressing for an Adjudicator to help those

affected if the line is built) and the importance of neighbourhood plans.

One of the best parts of my job is visiting schools. I try to go to several a month, and it is always good to talk to pupils and teachers. Academisation was a hot topic at the Head Teachers' Forum which I attended recently at North Oxfordshire Academy.

I'm pleased to say that the Secretary of State has confirmed that 'good' and 'outstanding' schools will not be forced to become academies.

I am from a family of teachers, and firmly believe that the problem we have to address is one of standards rather than structures.

We have some great academies locally, including the Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company and The Warriner Multi Academy Trust, and some that are not yet producing the results we need for our children.

Many of us are understandably

worried about changes at Banbury Academy.

I'm in close touch with the Department for Education.

I hope that we can work together to drive up standards, and make sure our students have the best start in life.

Should any constituent have a specific concern, please contact me and I would be happy to take it up with the relevant authorities, where appropriate. The best way of getting in touch is by email: victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk

I am from a family of teachers, and firmly believe that the problem we have to address is one of standards rather than structures

Firm to launch new free paper

NEWSQUEST Media Group, the leading local multimedia group in the UK, announced today the launch of a new, free newspaper in Oxfordshire, *The Oxfordshire Star*.

Launched on Thursday, June 2, *The Oxfordshire Star* will have a print readership of approximately 22,000 and will be available as a pick up from a host of sites across the county.

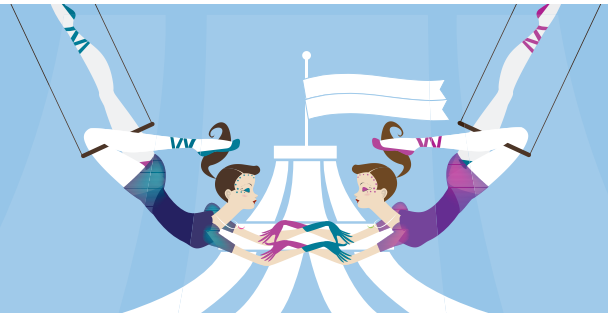
Chris Moore, managing director of Oxfordshire & Wiltshire, said the move had come about as a result of feedback from advertisers and staff in recent months.

"We believe there is a good opportunity for us to extend and develop our print audience via the launch of a new free newspaper that complements our existing portfolio of paid for newspapers, magazines and digital platforms. *The Oxfordshire Star* will further strengthen our reach with the growing population in the county and provide an additional platform for local advertisers."

Regional editor Gary Lawrence, said the *Star* will be a bright, busy and colourful community newspaper:

"We are blessed with wonderful communities and a vibrant social scene and *The Oxfordshire Star* will reflect that. It will feature news, sport and leisure, as well as property, motors and jobs. I'm sure readers will enjoy the latest addition to our Oxfordshire portfolio."

The newspaper will not have a dedicated website, but online will be supported by Newsquest's existing portfolio of Oxfordshire websites which attract an audience of over 60,000 visitors per day.



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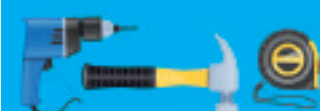
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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1), (5) & (7)

Notice of Temporary Traffic Order
Banbury, Butchers Row - Prohibition of Vehicles
Date of Order: 23 May 2016
Coming into force: 31 May 2016

This Order is being introduced because of new service water connection works which are anticipated to take 7 days to complete. The effect of the Order is to temporarily prohibit any vehicle proceeding in Butchers Row between the rear of Nos.72 to 78 High Street. The one-way restriction in Butchers Row and the Prohibition of Vehicles using High Street and Market Place will be temporarily suspended to allow for access and egress of permitted vehicles only.

Appropriate traffic signs will be displayed to indicate when the measures are in force. The alternative route for the Butchers Row closure is via High Street and Market Place.

The relevant parts of the following orders shall be temporarily suspended for the duration of the works:

(1) The Oxfordshire County Council (Various Roads, Banbury) (Traffic Regulation) Order 1980 (as amended) and

(2) The Cherwell District Council (Banbury Town Centre) (Pedestrian Streets And Traffic Regulation) Order 2002 (as amended).

This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner.

Traffic Regulations Team (RefAC) for the Director for Environment & Economy, Speedwell House, Oxford OX1 1NE. 0845 310 1111.

9 RECRUITMENT

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Although advantageous, it is not necessary to have nuclear industry experience for either position as full training will be given.

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The Garden Quarter house has floor-to-ceiling glass walls in places; top right, Kingsmere house from the outside and, right, Kingsmere kitchen

Buy-to-let marketer may be tempted by new builds

BUY-TO-LET investors should consider new builds in and around Banbury and Bicester, according to Oxford-based agents Finders Keepers. The firm, which has a property search and acquisition arm, Inspired Investment, says yields of five to five and a half per cent are easily achievable.

Some of the properties it suggest for buy to let investments are Bovis Homes built houses at Longford Park near Banbury.

Prices start from £275,995 for a

Gill Oliver
gill.oliver@nqo.com

three-bedroom mid-terrace with a garage and go up to £479,995 for a five-bedroom detached with double garage.

The Square, at Heyford Park near Bicester, includes three-bedroom homes from £299,995 to £319,995 for a three-bedroom, two-bathroom property.

Head of Finders Keepers Inspired Investment Frank Webster says a

four-bedroom, two bathroom detached Barratt Homes-built house with garage and parking on Longford Park near Banbury would cost £369,950.

Anticipated rental would be £1,550 per month, giving a yield of five per cent a year.

And a three-bedroom, two-bathroom, semi-detached house with parking which sold for £270,950 is expected to generate rental of £1,050 per month, giving an annual yield of 4.7 per cent.

Other examples of rentals in the

Bicester area include a family home on Kingsmere.

With six double bedrooms, it also has three ensuite showers and a family bathroom.

There is a living room, dining room, study and kitchen.

The back garden has a patio, a garage and driveway parking and is being offered to let, unfurnished, at £2,400 a month through Finders Keepers.

A three-bedroom house is on the Garden Quarter development in

Caversfield. The property has a balcony off the master bedroom and ensuite bathroom.

There is a kitchen/breakfast room, living room with patio doors to the garden plus allocated parking for two cars. It is being marketed, unfurnished, at £1,700 a month through Finders Keepers.

To find out more about these two properties call 01869 329530. For information on Inspired Investment, call 01865 302308, or visit www.finders.co.uk

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email propertyedit@nqo.com





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Austin Road, Bodicote £295,000

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- 3 bedrooms
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4 Longworth Close

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£675



6 Albert Street

A new to the market very spacious three bedroom terraced house with garden in the town centre and walking distance to the train station. Available unfurnished. Good size living accommodation with two reception rooms and spacious kitchen. Separate utility room. Original Victorian features throughout. Book your viewing now! Ideal for a professional family.

£850



25 Sage Close

Martin & Co are pleased to present a large three bedroom furnished property. The property comprises; spacious entrance hall with storage cupboard; dining room; kitchen with separate breakfast area. Good sized first floor lounge; separate utility room. The master bedroom benefits from fitted wardrobes and an ensuite shower room.

£1050



flat 3, 17 Calthorpe Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom spacious flat within walking distance to the town centre and train station. Hallway leads to open plan kitchen with breakfast bar and good size living room with period features. There are two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. The bathroom comprises bath and shower and WC. EPC Rating D.

£800



119 Broom Way

Martin & Co are pleased to present this spacious three bedroom property. The property comprises a separate kitchen with fridge freezer and washing machine; spacious lounge overlooking the garden; upstairs there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with bath and shower. The property benefits from a rear enclosed garden and allocated parking.

£875



Flat 3, Dorita House

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this one bedroom flat for rent on the Broughton Road. The property comprises; entrance hall, living room, kitchen and bedroom. It is unfurnished, neutrally decorated and is available from 6th June. The property is conveniently situated for the town centre and the train station. EPC Rating E.

£625



42 Sir Henry Jake Close

Martin & Co are delighted to offer this three bedroom semi detached house on Hanwell Fields with garage and garden. The property benefits from 2 reception rooms as well as larger than average bedrooms with fitted wardrobes.

£1000



18 Barcombe Close

Martin & Co Banbury are pleased to offer to the market, this one bedroom semi-detached house in the Hardwick area of Banbury. The property comprises; spacious lounge, kitchen, double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, and bathroom. EPC Rating D.

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flat 1, Cricketers Fields

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64 Kingsway

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46 Centre Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a spacious four bedroom mid terraced property situated in Grimsbury within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises two reception rooms; kitchen; upstairs there are four bedrooms on 2 split levels. The master bedroom benefits from an ensuite bathroom. EPC Rating: D.

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67 Waltham Gardens

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom house conveniently situated in Grimsbury within walking distance to the train station and the town centre. The property comprises; kitchen; living room; two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and shower. The property also benefits from a rear enclosed garden. Available unfurnished. EPC Rating: D.

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Bredon House

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market four bedroom detached property. The property comprises; entrance hall leading to living room; separate dining room or office; spacious kitchen including washing machine; fridge freezer and dishwasher. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms; family bathroom.

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Middleton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this two bedroom ground floor apartment situated conveniently for the town centre and the train station. The property comprises; fully fitted kitchen with washing machine, fridge and cooker; open plan living room. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and shower. There is also parking at the rear of the property. EPC Rating: D.

£695



Flat 2, Butchers Row Apartments

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market stunning one bedroom apartment. The property comprises; hallway including storage cupboard; a spacious separate kitchen; separate living room. New appliances of washing machine; fridge freezer and cooker are provided. The property has one double bedroom and a separate bathroom with shower and WC.

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Ducketts Lane Farnborough £399,950

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The Moors Drive Middleton Cheney £410,000

Four bedrooms | Detached home | Desirable village location | Two reception rooms | Kitchen Diner | Three double bedrooms plus a large single | En suite | Double glazed | Gas centrally heated | Off road parking | Double garage | En suite | Downstairs cloak room | No onward chain | Viewing comes highly recommended |



Austin Drive Banbury £375,000

Detached | Four double bedrooms | Corner plot | Ensuite to master | Cloakroom | Detached Garage | Off street parking for several vehicles | Kitchen Diner | Family room | Family oriented Garden | Well presented throughout | EPC - D



Dove Cottages Thorpe Mandeville £249,950

Pretty village location | Two double bedrooms | Porch | Off road parking | lounge | separate dining area | Gardens to front, rear with further plot | Centrally heated | Double glazed | Recently refurbished | Countryside views to rear | Viewing comes highly recommended. | EPC - E



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Wykham Lane Broughton £299,950

Desirable village location | detached chalet bungalow | flexible layout | Two / Three bedrooms | Porch | Downstairs Cloak | Utility | Study / Bed Three | Garage | Low Maintenance Garden | EPC - E



★ NEW INSTRUCTION



Foxhall Court School Lane £159,950

Overs 70s one bedroom retirement apartment | 19' bedroom with built in double wardrobes | 25' open plan lounge/diner | kitchen area | Town Centre location | Emergency call system | On call house manager | Pull cords in every room | Wet room | Double Glazed | lift and communal facilities | Access to beautifully maintained gardens | EPC - C



★ NEW INSTRUCTION



Calthorpe Road Banbury £149,950

Close to town centre | Well presented throughout | Two double bedrooms | Off road parking to the rear | Impressive views | 25% share of freehold | Top floor accommodation | Open plan living | Walking distance of the train station | EPC - E



★ NEW INSTRUCTION



Causeway Banbury £215,000

Three bedroom mid terrace | Period property | Over 100 foot rear garden | Lounge | Kitchen/ diner | Gas centrally heated | Double glazed | Garage | Porch | fully redecorated with new carpets fitted | Offered with no onward chain | EPC - E



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Motors - first for new cars

New Car Road Test

The definitive view
by Andy Enright



Ford S-max has the max factor



PEOPLE-CARRYING MPVs do tend towards being a bit boring. They're ostensibly big boxes on wheels and notions of style or handling dynamics don't tend to come very far up the priority list for their manufacturers. Unless that manufacturer is Ford and that vehicle is an S-MAX. Ford's latest seven-seater offers better handling, greater efficiency and some amazingly clever safety features. It doesn't look like being deposited from its position as our favourite anytime soon.

Background

When the old S-MAX arrived in dealers back in 2006, we wondered what the heck it was. Didn't Ford already sell us a seven-seater called a Galaxy? Yet here was something that rode on the Galaxy chassis but was a bit more Miss Brahms and a bit less Mrs Slocombe. It looked great and Ford had made a number of subtle tweaks under the skin so that it drove as sharply as it was styled. It was an instant hit. True, it wasn't the first seven-seater that was great to drive. Honda's dull-looking Stream VTEC was a hoot to steer, but keep that little tip under your hats, used buyers.

Driving Experience

On the road, this car is as good to drive as ever. The range hinges around a family of 2.0-litre turbod-

iesel engines, offered in 120PS, 150PS and 180PS guises. The 150PS and 180PS 2.0-litre TDCi S-MAX models get six-speed manual 'boxes as standard but are also offered with Ford's six-speed PowerShift automatic gearbox and are available with intelligent all-wheel drive (I-AWD). The system continually measures how the car's wheels are gripping the road surface every 16 milliseconds; can adjust power delivery to individual wheels in 100 milliseconds; and can send 100 per cent of available engine torque to the rear wheels. Need more grunt? Try Ford's latest bi-turbo 2.0-litre TDCi engine, which develops 210 PS and 450Nm of torque, delivered from 2,000 rpm.

Design and Build

Ford talks at length of this second generation model's sleeker styling avoiding "visual noise" but some may feel that the looks of this MK2 S-MAX design have lost a little of the visual impact that marked out its predecessor. The front pillar is moved further back to create a longer, sculpted bonnet and a raised chrome trapezoidal grille and slim headlight design target a 'technical' and cutting-edge look. There'll be much less debate about the rear three-quarter styling, with a distinctive window-line complemented by LED tail lights that add visual

width. They're connected by a signature satin chrome strip, while a rear diffuser separates the exhaust outlets.

Market and Model

Prices start at just under £25,000 for base Zetec trim, with Titanium spec adding £1,700 to that asking price, both rates netting you a 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol car. Go for ritzy Titanium Sport trim and that starts at around £30,000 for the 180PS diesel, £1,500 more than its Titanium equivalent. The Zetec trim features 17-inch alloys, the SYNC2 infotainment system, parking sensors, keyless start, a DAB radio, sports seats, power fold mirrors, a tonneau cover, an electric handbrake and ISOFIX attachments for child seats in the second row. Go for Titanium spec - as 70% of S-MAX customers do - and you get sat nav, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers and automatic headlights, LED daytime running lights, a lane keeping aid, keyless entry, traffic sign recognition, body-coloured trim bits and cruise control with adjustable speed limiter. At the top of the range, the Titanium Sport comes with a body kit, 18-inch alloys, a rear spoiler, sports suspension and heated front seats.

Cost of Ownership

The diesel engines all return

excellent economy. The most popular S-MAX is likely to be the 2.0 TDCi variant and in this one, you'll see 56.5mpg on the combined cycle and 129g/km of carbon dioxide whether you choose a 150PS or a 180PS version. You'll hit those returns by nearly 10% if you opt for four wheel drive or the Powershift automatic gearbox. At the top of the range, the 210PS Bi-Turbo manages 51.4mpg with 144g/km emissions. The 1.5-litre petrol model posts a 43.5mpg figure, but we'd take that with a pinch of salt. A small petrol engine is going to struggle to move a seven-seater, especially if you're running laden quite a bit. The 240PS petrol engine even posts a 35.8mpg and 180g/km. The warranty is a 3 year/60,000 mile deal with Ford Assistance for 1 year, providing roadside assistance in the UK and throughout Europe.

Summary

You'll have to make your own mind up on the aesthetics, but in every other regard, the latest S-MAX is a big step forward compared to its predecessor. The ethos remains the same, but the execution is a whole lot slicker. Mind you, it needed to be. The MPV market is one of the most dynamic, with new entrants and fresh ideas constantly popping up. Some may

wonder whether this car really offers £2,000 of added utility over a cheaper Citroën C4 Grand Picasso, but that's going to very much depend on how much you enjoy driving.

The engine choice seems to offer something for everyone and Ford is even bringing us a Vignale luxury edition where customers can specify the trims, equipment and finishes in a swish Vignale lounge. The S-MAX deserves the big billing. It's done the hard yards already and for families there really isn't a lot better.

Facts at a glance

FACTS AT A GLANCE
CAR: Ford S-MAX range
PRICES: £24,795-£33,345 - on the road
INSURANCE GROUPS: 17-27
CO2 EMISSIONS: 129-180g/km
PERFORMANCE: [240PS petrol]
Max Speed 140mph / 0-60mph 8.4s
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0TDCi 180] (combined) 52.3mpg
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES:
 Twin front, side and curtain airbags, ABS, EBA, stability control
WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?:
 Length/Width/Height mm
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